

JBSA

LEGACY

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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO

FEBRUARY 18, 2022



AIRMAN MARK COLMENARES

Jagello 2000 Association Senior Project Director Petr Zlatohlávek looks on as CEO and Co-founder Zbynek Pavvlacik takes a photograph inside a C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Jan. 25.

Alamo Wing wows NATO Days reps

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JBSA members help World War II veteran celebrate 101st birthday

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Fort Sam Houston Golf Course recognized

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Using business etiquette in a virtual environment

By Eugene “Jay” Berry
88TH AIR BASE WING PROTOCOL

As a protocol officer, I have been asked numerous times to provide etiquette training for our Total Force Airmen. Many of the people who attend these seminars are new to the military, but some lessons are valuable reminders to all of us.

As we continue to shift to operating in a virtual environment, we utilize and rely on electronic communication more than ever before. Understanding some basic business etiquette rules will not only improve communication but also promote professional and mutually respectful relationships.

Etiquette is defined as the rules that govern correct or polite behavior in society. Simply said, it is the practice of demonstrating good manners. Business etiquette refers to the expectations of ethical behavior, practices and conduct among professionals.

Telephone etiquette

In a virtual environment, conducting business on the telephone has become more common, even with someone you have not met personally. That said, business telephones should be answered in a pleasant and professional manner.

Example: “Wright-Patterson Protocol, Jay Berry speaking, how may I help you?”

When calling either domestically or internationally, the caller should identify himself or herself, company name or office, and location.

Example: “Good morning. This is Jay Berry from the 88th Air Base Wing, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. May I please speak with Mr. John Smith?”

When referring to themselves, civilians should never give themselves an honorific.

► Incorrect: “This is Mr. Jay Berry...”

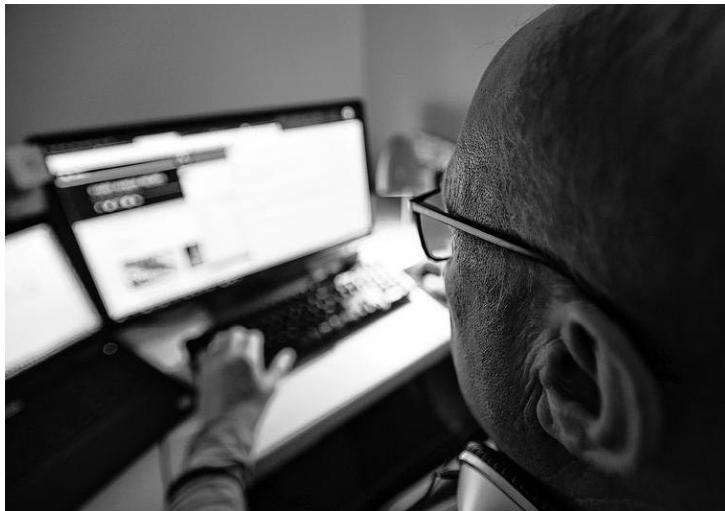
► Correct: “This is Jay Berry...”

Military members, however, should use rank to identify themselves when conducting business on the telephone.

When using a mobile phone, remember that a conversation in a public or crowded area is not private. Turn off or completely silence your mobile phone when in business meetings, events and ceremonies.

Email etiquette

Conducting business via email has been a popular technique for years. Even though we have used this platform for a while, here are some basic rules to follow:



APRIL GAIL PILGRIM

As we continue to shift to operating in a virtual environment, we utilize and rely on electronic communication more than ever before.

► Know your audience. Begin by utilizing the proper courtesy title when addressing your email. Avoid using terms and acronyms that may not be understood by all.

► Always review your communication before sending it.

► Email does not include emotion, so always make sure your message says what you intend it to say. For example, the use of punctuation and capitalized letters may inadvertently change an innocent message into an offensive one.

► Just like when you send messages, avoid negative interpretations where they may not exist. If you are offended by an email, take a moment to think about it from the sender's perspective before reacting. The bottom line is never to reply immediately when emotional issues are involved ... sometimes, no response is the best response.

► Be sure you are not copying individuals you shouldn't and not removing people from the email traffic who still need the information.

► Answer emails directed to you within 24 hours, even if it is to simply confirm receipt.

Video meeting platforms

The virtual environment has made video meetings a popular way to conduct

business. As the newest format of electronic communication, we are still defining the best ways to conduct ourselves.

Set your environment:

► Always system-check equipment to ensure your video camera and microphone are functioning properly.

► Blur out or utilize virtual backgrounds if the area you are using is unsightly or distracting. Be cognizant of lighting.

► Close your office door to minimize interruptions and distractions.

Make sure you are prepared:

► Dress appropriately. The rule of thumb is to wear what you would if the meeting was in person.

► Be on time and ready to contribute. Log in to a meeting 5-10 minutes prior to start time with all notetaking and briefing materials ready.

Conduct during the meeting:

► Turn on your camera when you are speaking — it's all about staying connected.

► Mute your microphone when you are not speaking to reduce unwanted background noise.

► Interrupt appropriately — raise your hand, unmute your mic or use the chat function.

► Don't eat or do other things you wouldn't do in a face-to-face meeting.

JBSA LEGACY

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Feedback Fridays

Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller

502D AIR BASE WING AND JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO
COMMANDER

Feedback Fridays is a weekly forum that aims to connect the 502d Air Base Wing with members of the Joint Base San Antonio community. Questions are collected during commander's calls, town hall meetings and throughout the week.

If you have a question or concern, please send an email to 502ABW.PA.official@us.af.mil using the subject line "Feedback Fridays."

Questions will be further researched and published as information becomes available.

Q: Can someone please take a look at the road at the entrance of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston? The entrance between the Soldier Recovery Unit and the fire station is in great disrepair and poses a real threat to cars and personnel.

I have asked the police and Airmen for information on whom to contact. Each one of the personnel that I spoke to would tell me that it was none of their concerns and pass me on.

It would also be helpful to have a published number for things like this.

A: We would like to thank you for being observant and willing to provide input to JBSA leadership.

Upon checking with our 502d Civil Engineer



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Group, they have already started efforts to repair Schofield Drive from the intersection near the fire station down to the railroad tracks.

They are funding a major contract this year and are currently developing the schedule and traffic

plans. The goal is to have the work done this summer.

Thank you again for providing us with this feedback and allowing us to provide the best service to our JBSA community.

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston virtual monthly retirement ceremony set for Feb. 24

502nd Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston virtual monthly retirement ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Fort Sam Houston Theater, located at building 2270, 2472 Stanley Road.

Maj. Gen. Dennis P. LeMaster, Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence will preside over the ceremony.

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, only immediate family members of the retirees will attend the physical ceremony. All other guests may view the ceremony at the link provided beginning at 2 p.m.

The link for the Virtual February 2022 Installation Retirement Ceremony is available at <https://cinvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=631148&k=046243087F5F>.

Diversity, equity, inclusion are necessities in U.S. Military

By Jim Garamone

DOD NEWS

Diversity, equity and inclusion in the military are necessities for the United States, Bishop Garrison, the senior advisor to the secretary of defense for human capital and diversity, equity and inclusion said recently.

Garrison spoke to the Center for a New American Security Feb. 9 about the progress being made by the department and what still needs to happen.

Some 41 percent of the military identify as members of minority groups, and that number will grow larger, Garrison said. The military must be able to attract, train and retain them for the services to retain competitive edges, he said.

"I want people to see [diversity, equity and inclusion] as another tool in the toolkit and another way of solving these problems," Garrison said.

Fewer Americans between the ages of 18 to 24 — the prime ages for recruits — qualify for military service. "So, we have to find out ways of getting to a broader talent pool and broader interest groups in order to bring those highly qualified, talented individuals in," he said.

He noted that the percentage of minorities drops as they rise up the ranks. "Their numbers tend to begin to decline in terms of service; they tend to get out, and there could be a variety of reasons as to why that actually is," he said. "We need to take a very data-driven approach to get a better understanding as to what's actually happening here. What is the problem? And how can we address it?"

Garrison said the need for diversity, equity and inclusion to be a consideration or a part of all decisions in the military.

"I would hope that as many leaders and members of the total force as possible see [diversity, equity and

inclusion] efforts as a force multiplier," he said. He wants them to see the program as a way to make the U.S. military more successful in achieving critical missions and in making forces more lethal.

Bringing in more talented infantry personnel or military intelligence analysts is the goal for any program, he said. When the military gets recruits from diverse backgrounds, there will be more innovative thought, more innovative solutions to incredibly complex and complicated problems that are facing the national security apparatus today, he said. "I want people to see [diversity, equity and inclusion] as another tool in the toolkit and another way of solving these problems.

"It's not just something that has to be done because of some type of cultural ideology or culture wars that are going on — that's not the case at all. It is, again, not diversity for diversity's sake," Garrison said.

TRICARE answers your questions about COVID-19 testing

By TRICARE Communications

COVID-19 continues to spread, now as the Omicron variant. Getting vaccinated is the most effective way to protect you and your family from getting seriously ill, getting hospitalized, or dying. You should also make sure you're up to date with your vaccines. Testing is another important step you can take to protect yourself and others.

"Testing is critically important to help reduce the spread of COVID-19," said Dr. Kenneth Yale, interim director of the TRICARE Health Plan. "If you've been exposed to a person with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, you should get tested. We encourage TRICARE families to follow currently approved TRICARE requirements for coverage of COVID-19 testing at TRICARE.mil to ensure your test is covered."

Check out the below Q&As for guidance on COVID-19 testing and how TRICARE covers tests.

Q: How does TRICARE cover COVID-19 tests administered by a provider?

A: TRICARE will cover your COVID-19 test and waive the cost of the office visit if a TRICARE-authorized provider or a provider at a military hospital or clinic deems your test medically necessary. The provider can decide you need a test based on your symptoms, exposure risk, and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC.

To find a TRICARE-authorized provider who can perform a COVID-19 test, use the Find a Doctor tool. You can also reach out to your local military hospital or clinic directly regarding the availability of COVID-19 testing.

Q: Does TRICARE cover COVID-19 at-home tests?

A: TRICARE covers the cost of COVID-19 at-home tests that are both approved by the Federal Drug Administration (which includes tests approved under Emergency Use Authorization) and ordered by a TRICARE-authorized provider for a medically necessary purpose. For example, you're showing COVID-19 symptoms or have known or suspected close contact with a known infected person.

At this time, TRICARE doesn't have the authorization to reimburse COVID-19 at-home tests outside of this guideline. These tests are also referred to as self-tests or over-the-counter tests. This means if you buy an at-home test for any reason at retailers or pharmacies without a health care provider's authorization, TRICARE won't cover the cost of the test. However, you have multiple options to obtain free at-home antigen rapid diagnostic tests, as well as other tests like polymerase chain reaction or PCR, tests, through federal and local government entities.

Q: What are other options for getting a free



SGT. CARLOS CHABERT

Corporal Jovan Pabón Centelles from Joint Task Force-Puerto Rico performs a COVID-19 test to Specialist Keyleen Rentas at Bayamón Regional Hospital, Puerto Rico, Jan. 19.

COVID-19 at-home test?

A: As of Jan. 19, you can order free at-home tests through the federal government at [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/COVIDTests.gov). Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four at-home COVID-19 tests.

Order your free tests now so you have them when you need them. Here's when you should take an at-home test:

If you begin having COVID-19 symptoms (for example, fever, sore throat, runny nose, or loss of taste or smell)

If you come into close contact with someone who has COVID-19 (test at least five days after exposure)

Keep in mind, TRICARE will only cover your test if a TRICARE-authorized provider deems the test is medically necessary. If you test positive or negative on your at-home test, follow CDC's guidance for self-testing. And be sure to report positive test results to your provider. This free federal government initiative is just one way for you to get at-home tests. Go to [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/COVIDTests.gov) to learn about other resources.

Q: Who should get tested for COVID-19?

A: The CDC recommends that you test for COVID-19 if you have COVID-19 symptoms. Symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus and anyone can have mild to severe symptoms of COVID-19. If you come into close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you should also get tested to check for infection. You should test at least five days after you've

had close contact with someone with the virus. Check the CDC website for further guidance on who should get a test and who doesn't need a test.

Keep in mind, whether you test positive or negative for COVID-19, you should take steps to protect yourself and others. And follow CDC's recommendations.

Q: What if my job or my child's school requires a COVID-19 test?

A: TRICARE will only cover tests that are medically necessary as determined by a TRICARE-authorized provider. This means TRICARE doesn't cover tests that you may need to return to work, school, travel, or for other similar reasons. You should check with your employer, local or state public health authorities, or other party that's requiring the test for guidance and possible coverage or reimbursement if there's a cost. You can also reach out to your TRICARE contractor if you have questions about testing coverage.

For more on COVID-19 testing and getting care, review guidance on the TRICARE website and CDC website. Remember, get up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines by finding a vaccine or a booster near you. By taking the proper precautions, you can help keep yourself and others safe.

Editor's note: At the time of posting, this information is current. Visit www.cdc.gov or TRICARE COVID Guidance for the most current COVID-19 information.

Secretary of the Army: Message to the force

By Secretary of the Army Christine E. Wormuth

Whether it is defending the country at home or overseas, our nation counts on the United States Army to be the first line of defense. We stand ready to deter and defend around the globe, as the tip of the spear in Europe and the backbone of joint operations in the Indo-Pacific.

The Army surges in times of crisis and is ready when called upon to fight and win the nation's wars.

We are navigating an unpredictable future, and our nation and our Army are at an inflection point. Building on our strong foundational priorities of people, modernization, and readiness, I have defined six objectives to help guide the force through these shifting times.

Through these objectives, my goal is to enable the Total Army to achieve specific and tangible outcomes that we can continue to advance in the years ahead.

As we emerge from two decades of counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations, my first objective is to put the Army on a sustainable strategic path amidst this uncertainty.

The Army must find a way to field the cutting-edge formations we need to conduct multi-domain operations while facing increased fiscal pressures. This means difficult choices must be made to sustain and strengthen U.S. deterrence with China as the pacing challenge and Russia as an acute threat we also confront.

Charting this path requires a commitment to innovation and experimenting with new ways of operating. The work that is being done in Project Convergence to bring together our sister services to test new operational concepts and digital technologies is the kind of innovative approach we need to win the future fight.

My second objective is to ensure the Army becomes more data-centric and can conduct operations in contested environments, which will enable our ability to prevail on the future battlefield. Doing so will allow us to embrace emerging technologies to become a more effective and efficient force that can project power in cyberspace and defend our networks, weapons, and data from cyber threats.

My third objective is to continue our efforts to be resilient in the face of climate change. As the planet warms, the polar ice caps melt, and extreme weather becomes commonplace, the Army must adapt its installations, acquisition

programs, and training to be able to operate in a changing environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Our future readiness depends on it.

The cornerstone of America's Army is our people. Three of my six objectives are focused on caring for our Soldiers, families, and Army civilians who are the very foundation of Army excellence.

My fourth objective is to build positive command climates at scale across all Army formations. This starts with continued Army leadership and must be developed both from the top-down and the bottom up. Character and culture matter, and I am committed to ensuring that we select the best possible leaders and give them the tools and resources to care for their Soldiers.

My fifth objective is to reduce harmful behaviors in our Army. This is integral to sustaining a positive command climate at scale. We need to shift from responding to harmful events after they have happened to finding ways to prevent them.

To do that we must develop and institutionalize prevention-oriented approaches that year after year will reduce the frequency of harmful behaviors such as sexual harassment and assault, extremist activity, racism, and domestic violence.

We need to do more to prevent suicide in the Army. I call on leaders to continue making clear that there is no stigma associated with taking care of yourself and your family. We should strive to connect our Soldiers with the necessary resources for their wellbeing. The Army is its people, and a strong, healthy, resilient, trained force is the most important indicator of our readiness.

Finally, the Army is the world's premier land fighting force because we have brought the nation's best into our ranks. But the talent and recruiting landscape is changing rapidly, so my sixth objective is to strategically adapt the way we recruit and retain talent into the Army in order to sustain the all-volunteer force. We need to tell the Army's story in new ways to ensure we remain the first choice for Americans who want to serve their country.

We need to reach out to Americans from all backgrounds, talents, and geographies and give them multiple reasons to come in and stay in our great Army. My goal is to help all Americans to be able to see themselves in what the Army has to offer.

FORT SAM HOUSTON

Fort Sam Houston Golf Course recognized as Valero Texas Open Historical Tournament Course

By Alex Delgado

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Representatives from the Valero PGA Texas Open unveiled a plaque recognizing the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course as a Valero Texas Open Historical Tournament Course Jan. 25.

The plaque, located near the putting green, provides the history of PGA tournaments held at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course.

"This place holds a very special meaning to all of us at the Valero Texas Open, as we celebrate our 100th anniversary this year," said Larson Segerdahl, Valero Texas Open executive director. "This golf course, these grounds, these tees, fairways and greens served as the host course for the Texas Open early in its history. To this day, it remains the only military installation golf course that has hosted a professional golf tournament."

Brian Hoffman, 502nd Air Base Wing vice director, attended the event and expressed his gratitude on behalf of Joint Base San Antonio.

"What a great way to commemorate the special relationship between the Valero Texas Open and the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course," Hoffman said. "On behalf of Joint Base San Antonio, thank you to Valero and the Valero Texas Open."

Texas Open organizers added Fort Sam Houston to the tour in 1950 when the field exceeded 300 contestants. The field was split between Fort Sam Houston and Brackenridge Park in 1950 and 1951.

The Texas Open was held at Fort Sam Houston in 1950, 1951, 1956, and 1960, and produced a distinguished list of champions. Sam Snead, Dutch



BRIAN VALENCIA

(From left) Bill Rogers, Executive Director of Valero Energy Corporation; Larson Segerdahl, Executive Director of the Valero Texas Open; Brian Hoffman, 502nd Air Base Wing vice director; and Seymour Battle, Senior Vice President of Communications, Public Relations and Engagement at Valero Energy Corporation, unveiled a plaque commemorating the Professional Golfers' Association use of the Fort Sam Houston golf course at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 25.

Harrison, Gene Littler, and Arnold Palmer all won at Fort Sam Houston.

Fort Sam Houston was the sole site of the Texas Open in 1956 when Littler won. Arnold Palmer won the last Texas Open held at Fort Sam Houston in 1960.

"My wrists got cold on the back nine and I lost the touch," Palmer explained. "I was still hitting the ball well, but maybe I was anxious to get in."

Palmer went on to win the Masters Tournament and U.S. Open that year.

"This place holds a very special meaning to all of us at the Valero Texas Open, as we celebrate our 100th anniversary this year. This golf course, these grounds, these tees, fairways and greens served as the host course for the Texas Open early in its history."

Larson Segerdahl, Valero Texas Open executive director

Army South conducts rehearsal of concept mass migration drill

By Pfc. Joshua Taeckens
U.S. ARMY SOUTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

U.S. Army South conducted a rehearsal of concept drill Jan. 19-20 based on a Caribbean mass migration scenario designed to ensure the team is ready to support a U.S. Government response if called upon.

Army South, the Army Service Component Command to U.S. Southern Command, hosted the event which included participants from other military services and U.S. Government agencies.

Maj. Gen. William Thigpen, U.S. Army South commander, opened the rehearsal by emphasizing that a potential mass migration event entails a whole of government effort to execute while also highlighting the importance of speed and critical time factors needed for a response.

The concept drill, simulating a deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, provided feedback for all aspects of the operation; from command and control, to logistics and engineering, to essential services and support, including medical needs, food, water, and shelter to support migrants stranded at sea.

The effort to accomplish a mission of this nature takes teamwork according to Col. Frank Hopkins III, Army South Assistant Chief of Staff for Engineering.

"Anytime we come together with partners, partner nations or interagency partners we work towards getting the timing right," Hopkins said. "Army South is a team of teams, and we are able to flex our capabilities within hours of whatever the need might be of the geographical combatant command."

If ordered, a U.S. Army South contingency command post would deploy within 96 hours of receiving the go-ahead and would be capable of supporting mass migration operations.

The primary purpose of the ROC drill is to develop working relationships among the different U.S.



KAYE RICHEY

Maj. Gen. William Thigpen, U.S. Army South commanding general, speaks at a migrant operation rehearsal of concept drill at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Jan. 20. Army South, the Army Service Component Command to U.S. Southern Command, hosted the event, which simulated a deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to provide feedback for all aspects of the operation.

agencies and departments to deter illegal mass migration, prevent future mass migration and encourage humanitarian assistance support from international and regional partners.

"As a united front, this drill builds relationships that you don't know you need until a real-life operation takes place," said Maj Charles Noble, Army South civil affairs plans and operations officer. "It's better to have those relationships prior to execution so we can operate faster and with greater efficiency."

According to the Department of Homeland Security, no single agency has the capability or resources to

respond effectively to a mass migration event. Therefore, an organizational plan that can rapidly and effectively combine DHS enablers with other state, federal and international agencies is necessary to appropriately support an operation of this nature.

"With natural disasters and political unrest on the rise, if there were to be a mass migration event caused by a natural disaster, the Coast Guard, for example, would be divided between two major missions: humanitarian assistance and rescue operations for migrants, which one's the priority of effort?" asked Mark Kerry, a planner

with the DHS joint incident advisory group. "In this event, the Department of Defense would be requested to assist the DHS."

A primary focus of the drill is to ensure migrants will be treated in a safe and humane manner in accordance with international humanitarian standards while in the care of the U.S. military.

U.S. Army South rapidly responds to contingencies in the Caribbean, and Central and South America and builds regional capacity by working with our partner nations and other stakeholders to enhance security and defend the U.S. homeland.

DEFENSE HEALTH
AGENCY DIRECTOR
VISITS BAMC

Lt. Gen. Ronald J. Place (left), Defense Health Agency director, visits Brooke Army Medical Center Feb. 3 to meet with staff, discuss MHS GENESIS implementation, and to thank team members for their role in the implementation. He also stopped by laboratory and pharmacy areas, telling staff he was greatly appreciative of BAMC's dedication and commitment to the mission.



DANIEL J. CALDERÓN

The two-year option is now available for 84 different career fields, ranging from infantry and combat engineers to paralegals and aviation operations specialists. Even with a shorter enlistment, some career fields may also come with other incentives, like bonuses worth thousands of dollars.



COURTESY PHOTO

Army expands short-term
enlistment options

By Capt. Mia Figgs
U.S. ARMY RECRUITING COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Under this option, after basic and advanced training, new Soldiers would only be required to spend two years on active duty.

"Many people are apprehensive about long-term commitments right now, so we think having a shorter option will help give them some time to see if the Army fits their life and goals," said Maj. Gen. Kevin Vereen, who leads the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

The two-year option is now available for 84 different career fields, ranging from infantry and combat engineers to paralegals and aviation operations specialists. Even with a shorter enlistment, some career fields may also come with other incentives, like bonuses worth thousands of dollars.

After two years as a full-time Soldier, individuals are required to serve an additional two years part-time in the Army Reserve, working with a local unit one weekend a month with a two-week training one time a year. Of course, re-enlisting to stay on active duty would be an option if they decide the Army is the right career path for them.

Whether individuals initially sign on for two years or longer, they still receive the same training, which can mean credentials and certifications that will translate into private-sector careers when the Soldier transitions out of the Army.

Individuals can learn more about Army career options and the benefits of military service at www.goarmy.com.

THE LEADER'S PERSPECTIVE

MICC key in delivering power of Army contracting in 2022

By Brig. Gen. Doug Lowrey

COMMANDING GENERAL, MISSION AND INSTALLATION
CONTRACTING COMMAND

While we start a new calendar year, we are already in the second quarter of fiscal 2022 as the men and women of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command continue to stay engaged with our mission partners across the United States.

The MICC delivers the power of Army contracting to Army commands and garrisons within the strategic support area to ensure a globally dominant land force capability. Now is the time to forge relationships and proactively reach out through contract terrain walks with our supported units and coordinate and synchronize the requirements they need. In doing so, we provide quality contract effects at the right time and place to help our mission partners win.

Our No. 1 priority remains our people, and I applaud MICC Soldiers and Army civilians for doing their part to combat the coronavirus. By teleworking, wearing masks and continuing to socially distance ourselves we are doing our part to win against this pandemic as the nation experiences a surge of the latest COVID variant. Please continue to do all you can at work and off duty to keep you and your families safe against this deadly virus.

Action People First is the first line of effort supporting four key imperatives to the MICC's organizational success that recognizes Soldiers, civilian employees and their families as the command's most trusted resource requiring innovative ways to sustain an organizational culture of winning.

In December, I released a video on this line of effort encouraging every MICC office to develop "think tanks" to help improve our work environment and opportunities for our workforce. I look forward to hearing the recommendations from those think tanks on how to make the MICC an even better place to work. Even better; send me an invite as I want to hear what you have to say during your think-tank meetings.

Our latest video, Deliver Comprehensive Contracting Support, is the second line of effort. This video details how we shape contract support integration, execute contracting support, support contractor management, incorporate monthly contract terrain walks, and transform program management review and self-assessments.

The recently published FY22 MICC Annual Training Guidance sets the command's priorities and focus areas regarding training while ensuring we are fully nested with Army Contracting Command and Army Materiel Command objectives. We will also fully support the Army Contracting Enterprise "Back to Basics" initiative to further enhance the training of our workforce.



DAN ELKINS

In his latest leader's perspective, Brig. Gen. Douglas Lowrey encourages every member of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command to take the time to forge relationships and proactively reach out through contract terrain walks with our supported units and coordinate and synchronize the requirements they need.

"To make 2022 a truly successful year, we have all the guidance and framework for every MICC Soldier and Army civilian. Focused on taking care of our people first, we deliver contracting excellence to help the Army win every day. In doing so, MICC members are living the legacy while delivering the goods and services at the right time and place for our Soldiers."

help Soldiers win today and tomorrow.

To make 2022 a truly successful year, we have all the guidance and framework for every MICC Soldier and Army civilian. Focused on taking care of our people first, we deliver contracting excellence to help the Army win every day. In doing so, MICC members are living the legacy while delivering the goods and services at the right time and place for our Soldiers.

People First! Winning Matters! Live the Legacy!

My commander's intent document is tied to Army, AMC and ACC priorities. The document also lays out the keys to success and four lines of effort to lead the MICC to even greater success. Understanding the commander's intent ensures the men and women of the MICC are focused on the command's priorities to

LACKLAND

37th TRG builds force through modernized training

By Agnes Koterba

37TH TRAINING WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With more than 23 different career fields in four separate training locations, the 37th Training Group trains and provides mission-ready service members and military working dogs for the Department of the Air Force and the Department of Defense.

On any given day, the 37th TRG is home to nearly 4,000 Airmen, along with Guardians, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, who are learning the skills needed to perform their duties.

Modernized platforms and modalities are the foundation of this training which enables students to transform into multi-capable service members.

"We are focused on transforming our learning environments by implementing innovative and technological methodologies that enhance learning, and save time and money," said Col. Joyce Storm, 37th TRG commander. "From virtual simulators and computer-based instruction to online learning and augmented reality, these technologies enrich the learning environment."

The 37th TRG's Technical Training Transformation approach includes implementing hybrid, online and distance learning modalities, as well as moving away from traditional classrooms to those that are designed to facilitate and promote active learning.

"The future state of our classrooms will be an environment that supports today's generation," Storm said. "We will be moving toward modular furniture that is more conducive to small group collaboration. Think bean bag and pod chairs versus old school tables, desks and chairs. These new classrooms will be more innovative and interactive with flat screens to display students' work, streaming options to view content and more."

While classrooms will become more student-centered, instructors will also evolve in how they instruct.

Dr. Elizabeth Rich, 37th Training Support Squadron Faculty Development Fight chief, continuously reassesses learning



COURTESY PHOTO

A student from the 344th Training Squadron, Detachment 1, Vehicle Management School, demonstrates MIG welding methods in the flat position employing augmented reality at Naval Base Ventura County-Port Hueneme, California, Jan. 21.

models for instructors.

Rather than have instructors lecture to students all day, instructors are moving from passive to active learning experiences in the classroom. This is referred to as the "student-centered active learning experience" where instructors learn to be facilitators rather than instructors, Rich described.

Instructors and students alike are benefiting from these changes.

"It's most beneficial for our students when the classroom and technology innovations are multipurpose and fit an adaptive learning environment so that our teaching remains relevant," said Derek Read, 344th Training Squadron's chief of Training Resources and Requirements. "A student-centered vision is at the heart of what we do at the 344th."

One of the training group's five squadrons is the 344th TRS, which provides technical training in more than 10 different career fields. Many courses offer lab simulation and field scenario-based training to give students a kinesthetic learning experience and

real-world applications to develop their knowledge of course materials.

At the 344th TRS's Detachment 1, Vehicle Management School, students have access to welding simulators.

According to Brian Burgess, the school's training manager, the simulators increase a student's psychomotor retention of welding positions and the amount of time they practice; and decrease risk and the cost of materials.

In addition to simulators, small group learning and role-playing also allows for diverse instructional platforms that address various learning styles.

"We work to make it [training] as realistic and relevant as possible, doing training effectively and efficiently," stated Timothy Ori, 37th TRG Training Administrator.

The 37th TRG has more than 15 ongoing initiatives geared to meeting Air Education and Training Command's priority to "Transform the Way We Learn." Furthermore, the group is aggressively accelerating change to meet the demands of the current strategic

competition environment and to meet critical mission needs by enhancing student learning, saving time, minimizing expenses, and meeting overall training objectives.

Some of the training group's initiatives include using augmented and virtual reality within the enlisted aviation courses; gamification to master contracting course lessons; online and in-class hybrid teaching; implementing a digital credentialing process to track professional development, and virtual reality shoot/don't shoot trainers.

Modernizing training also means being able to quickly accommodate changes to content, or introduce new training materials. For example, in alignment with the Air Force Chief of Staff's "Action Order C," the group recently produced a new training video on Strategic Competition that introduces technical training students to the concept.

The video covers the history of world competitors such as China and Russia and the current status of diplomatic and economic relationships; it is designed to ensure Airmen understand their role in Strategic Competition and the Air Force's role in maintaining its competitive edge.

The 37th TRG approach to Technical Training Transformation is to ensure the approach to learning meets the needs of the National Defense Strategy as well as aligns with the evolving needs of a new generation of Airmen.

"Whether it's through in-person instruction or virtual platforms, we continue to assess the training provided to both our students and instructors," Storm said. "As each generation of students evolves, so do we. Actively engaging our Airmen through training is a priority to ensure they are prepared not only for their career field but develop a strategic mindset that sets them up for success."

Editor's Note: More information on the modernized training platforms and modalities will be highlighted in the upcoming technical training transformation news series, "Building the Force."

SecAF, CSAF visit Sixteenth Air Force to discuss capabilities in gray zone warfare

By Jessica Turner

SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown Jr. visited Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Feb. 2 to learn more about the numbered air force's capabilities in gray zone warfare.

Sixteenth Air Force Airmen highlighted information warfare options such as cyberspace operations, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, electromagnetic spectrum operations, weather, information operations and public affairs.

Airmen showcased how the NAF converges capabilities, partnerships and authorities from various units and functions in a way that increases the effectiveness of operations and generates outcomes that support IW objectives during competition.

"As we continue honing our cyber capabilities, after what I heard from these talented Airmen, I am heartened that Sixteenth Air Force is leading the charge in transforming how the Air Force operates in the information environment," Kendall said.

"The world has changed, and our approach to warfare must change with it. Those who can leverage information for strategic advantage will benefit as the world moves from successive regional conflicts to continuous global competition," said Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, Sixteenth Air Force commander. "It is clear that we are in lockstep with the Secretary."

As the Air Force's IW NAF, Sixteenth Air Force is the direct result of this new reality. The IW NAF was stood up in 2019 at the direction of the Air Force, to reorganize how the service implements information as the seventh joint function and transforms the way it fights.

In addition to discussions at the NAF Headquarters, the Air Force's senior leaders took a closer look at the missions of Sixteenth Air Force's 67th and 688th Cyberspace Wings.

During their visit with the 67th CW "Gunslingers," the Secretary and Brown



SHARON SINGLETON

Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) Airmen speak with Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown Jr. during their visit Feb. 2.

received an up-close look at service cyberspace operations. Cyber Airmen briefed the leaders on both offensive and defensive cyberspace operations and presented demonstrations of the wing's diverse mission set from an operator's perspective.

Kendall and Brown also learned about the 67th's in-house and outsourced development efforts and how the wing provides capabilities at all classification levels to enable successful cyber operations.

The 688th CW highlighted how they conduct enterprise operations and defense of the Air Force Information Network through the Network Operations Center and Security Operations Center. Additionally, leaders of the 688th CW demonstrated ongoing efforts to defend the data that weapon system platforms and decision-makers depend on.

"The Airmen of the 67th and 688th are doing the work we need to be done with great professionalism. I intend to ensure they have the funding, backing

and authorities they need to carry out their critically important mission," Kendall said. "Their grasp of the strategic environment and passion for winning in the gray zone, or if necessary in conflict, convinces me they are more than up for the challenges we face against China."

"As adversaries test the gray zone boundaries of cyber warfare, the risk for miscalculation rises," Brown said. "Which is why the work that the women and men of the 67th and 688th do every day is critical to the U.S. Air Force's continued success at keeping our cyber systems safe from strategic competitor's attacks," Brown said.

The day-long tour was topped off with a visit to National Security Agency-Texas, where the leaders learned about national cyberspace operations and Hunt Forward Operations.

Kendall and Brown took time out of the packed schedule to recognize outstanding achievers and to spend some time with Airmen from the

NAF and wings.

"Our competitors seek to reshape the world order, and have both the power and resources to do so, if left uncontested," Kendall said. "But what they do not have is our highly-skilled, multi-capable Airmen and Guardians. They are our nation's greatest weapon system," he said.

As the 26th secretary of the Air Force, Kendall is responsible for organizing, training and equipping nearly 700,000 people in the U.S. Air and Space Forces.

Sixteenth Air Force, headquartered at JBSA-Lackland, is the first-of-its-kind NAF. Also known as the Air Force's Information Warfare or Competition Numbered Air Force, it integrates multisource intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, cyber warfare, electronic warfare, and information operations capabilities across the competition continuum to ensure that the Air Force is fast, lethal and fully integrated in both competition and in conflict.

New exhibits make history come alive at Airman Heritage Museum

By David DeKunder

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A number of upgraded and new exhibits are making the history of the Air Force and the experiences of Basic Military Training come to life at the Airman Heritage Museum at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The museum has made improvements to its Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training, or BEAST, and Curtiss JN-4 “Jenny” bi-plane exhibits and has added three more displays recognizing the role of Women in the Air Force, or WAF, and combat cameramen, and an interactive arcade-style game which enables patrons to identify friendly or enemy World War II aircraft.

In addition, exhibit upgrades are being made at the U.S. Air Force Security Forces Exhibits Annex museum. Both the Airman Heritage and the U.S. Air Force Security Forces Exhibit Annex museums are part of the Airman Heritage Training Complex at JBSA-Lackland that consists of indoor and outdoor exhibits and displays of base and Air Force history, including the Air Park.

Bill Manchester, Airman Heritage Training Complex director, said improvements to the exhibits will make the displays more interactive to visitors and bring more realism to the subjects and topics which are covered in the exhibits.

Changes to the BEAST exhibit, which provides an interpretation of field training for basic trainees conducted at the JBSA-Chapman Annex include replacing the wooden railing with a plexiglass divider, installing a contoured texture floor, making it look like the actual ground and field environment at the BEAST site and mannequins of two trainees in fighting positions during training. In the background are wall-sized photos of the BEAST site on a panel, including the inside of a tent with cots lined up in a row and control towers.

Manchester said the updated, more realistic BEAST exhibit gives Basic Military Training, or BMT, graduates the opportunity to tell their visiting families what they experienced during



PHOTOS BY BRIAN BOISVERT

Plexiglass surrounds the Curtiss JN-4 “Jenny” bi-plane exhibit at the Airman Heritage Museum at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.



William “Bill” Manchester, Airman Heritage Training Complex director and Air Education and Training Command curator gives a tour of the Airman’s Heritage Museum at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Jan. 18.

their training in the “Ask Your Airman” section of the museum. The museum regularly hosts families of BMT graduates who come visit after the BMT

graduation ceremony.

“We want the young Airman to be able to tell their story to their families,” Manchester said. “Basically, they can

say to their families, ‘I lived in a tent, I slept on a cot.’ They can say, ‘just like that, and they can point to the picture (of cots inside the tent). It allows them to tell their story and allows the family to visualize and actually see what their young Airman is talking about.”

The plexiglass installed around both the BEAST and Curtiss JN-4 “Jenny” bi-plane exhibits give visitors a better view of the displays and makes the exhibits more realistic to museum-goers, Manchester said.

Manchester said a new interactive game display, “Friend or Foe,” has become quite popular among museum visitors. The display is set up like a 1980s-style arcade game, complete with two olive drab painted boxes with a touch screen of World War II aircraft flying by.

Players of the video game are a side door gunner on a B-17, a World War II bomber, and have to identify and touch the passing aircraft on the screen as friendly or an enemy.

The game is based on the old aircraft

MUSEUM continues on 15

Alamo Wing wows NATO Days reps

By Samantha Mathison

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 433rd Airlift Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland hosted two representatives from the Jagello 2000 Association, a Czech Republic organization focused on public diplomacy in the field of security policy and membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Jan. 25, 2022.

Jagello 2000 leads projects to raise awareness among the general public about transatlantic relations and policies; one of which is the coordination of the annual NATO Days in Ostrava and Czech Air Force Days at Ostrava Leoš Janáček Airport, Czech Republic.

For NATO Days 2022, Jagello 2000 Association CEO and co-founder Zbynek Pavlacik and Senior Project Director Petr Zlatohlávek visited the 433rd AW to further familiarize with the unit's mission and foster international relations with wing members.

"We wanted to express our appreciation and thanks for the wing's engagement to our events," Pavlacik said. "We've had the privilege to showcase the wing's mighty C-5 twice; once in 2019 and then last year in 2021. So we're here



AIRMAN MARK COLMENARES

Jagello 2000 Association Senior Project Director Petr Zlatohlávek looks on as CEO and Co-founder Zbynek Pavlacik takes a photograph inside a C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Jan. 25. Zlatohlávek and Pavlacik visited the wing to foster future cooperation in showcasing the C-5M at NATO Days in Ostrava and Czech Air Force Days, in the Czech Republic.

to discuss possibilities of cooperation for upcoming years."

The NATO Days in Ostrava and Czech Air Force Days event lays claim as the largest security show in

Europe. For last year's event, a C-5M Super Galaxy aircraft was flown on Sept. 13, 2021, and opened up for public display by aircrew and maintenance Reserve Citizen Airmen

Sept. 18-19, 2021.

Maj. Peter Anderson, 433rd Operations Support Squadron chief of current operations, helped coordinate the 433rd AW's participation in the event, along with the safe transport of two Marine Corps helicopters and an Air Force MQ-9 Reaper.

"It's important to showcase the capabilities of our wing by providing reliable C-5M Super Galaxy mission support, along with knowledgeable and experienced air and maintenance crews," Anderson said.

Anderson and other wing members also went out into the local community on three different occasions to engage with students, learn about their culture and offer their knowledge and experience as military members in the U.S. Air Force.

According to Anderson, 433rd AW leadership and Jagello 2000 Association representatives are hopeful about the wing's participation in this year's NATO Days in Ostrava and Czech Air Force Days event.

"To strengthen our relationship with NATO partners and showing commitment in the years to come symbolizes what the Alamo Wing is all about," Anderson said.

Alamo Wing announces 2021 annual awards

By Airman Mark Colmenares and Samantha Mathison

433RD AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 433rd Airlift Wing leadership announced the 2021 wing annual award winners during a limited in-person attendance and virtual ceremony at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy auditorium at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Feb. 5, 2022.

Traditionally, award winners are announced during the wing's annual awards banquet. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the ceremony was limited to senior leaders, nominees, a few select guests and support personnel for in-person attendance. The ceremony was livestreamed, allowing the audience to view the event remotely.

Col. Terry McClain, 433rd AW commander, officiated the ceremony.

"Our wing excelled throughout the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, and these Airmen were essential in making it happen," McClain said. "Modifying our usual banquet into a virtual ceremony

is the least we can do to safely recognize their hard work and efforts. They worked hard for our mission success, so we worked hard to celebrate them."

McClain, along with Chief Master Sgt. Takesha Williams, 433rd AW command chief, announced the following annual award winners:

► Airman Category

Staff Sgt. Christian Alejos, 433rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (recently promoted)

► Noncommissioned Officer Category

Tech. Sgt. Christine Narro, 433rd Medical Squadron

► Senior Noncommissioned Officer Category

Master Sgt. Justin Lundgaard, 26th Aerial Port Squadron

► First Sergeant Category

Senior Master Sgt. Tania McGuire, 433rd Civil Engineer Squadron

► Company Grade Officer Category

Capt. Lizeth Critchfield, 433rd Medical Squadron

► Field Grade Officer Category

Maj. Valerie Mafnas, 26th Aerial Port Squadron

► Flight Commander Category

Maj. Melissa Greenwood, 26th Aerial Port Squadron

► Civilian Category I

Sean Pollard, 433rd Operations Support Squadron

► Civilian Category II

Lisa Green, 433rd Aerospace Medicine Squadron

► Civilian Category III

Rosario Genuardi, 433rd Logistics Readiness Squadron

► Honor Guard/Guardian Category

Staff Sgt. Gary Montoya, 74th Aerial Port Squadron

► Alamo Wing Combat Ready Spirit Award

433rd Maintenance Squadron
According to Master Sgt. Justin Lundgaard, 26th Aerial Port Squadron NCO in charge of air terminal operations center, it was an honor to be selected at the wing level in the senior NCO category.

"I wouldn't have gotten here without my team, my leadership and my mentors," Lundgaard said. "Their support and guidance has been invaluable and if I'm selected at the next level, I will be honored."

JBSA members help World War II veteran celebrate 101st birthday

By Carlos Vega

502ND AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Robert M. "Bob" Warren, a World War II veteran, celebrated his 101st birthday alongside his family, friends and active duty service members from Joint Base San Antonio at a local diner Jan. 28.

"What a special morning to honor such a remarkable man who served honorably for more than 20 years during World War II and then serving in Texas as a mayor, a true citizen and Soldier," said Col. Steven Strain, 502nd Installation Support Group commander.

When asked about how he was feeling that day Warren smiled and said, "I'm fine, not hurting. Some of my joints don't work too well, but outside that, I'm just fine."

"He is the most positive person that you could ever meet," said Tami Marlin, his youngest daughter. "He's never in a bad mood and never says anything negative about anyone or to anyone. He is just delightful. He is our hero."

Born in 1921 in Frisco, Texas, Warren was a valedictorian and 1942 graduate of Texas A&M University, ranking 10th in his

class with a degree in finance. He would go on to enlist in the Army Air Corps where he began training as a pilot.

By the age of 23, he was a co-pilot navigator on a C-47 that flew to Europe, where he dropped paratroopers and pulled paragliders behind enemy lines. Three of his most notable operations included the Battle of the Bulge, Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands and Operation Plunder with the crossing of the Rhine.

Following his service after the war, Warren would remain in the Air Force Reserve for 22 years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. He also worked at Exxon for 36 years, retiring in 1981.

Warren would go on to serve as a city councilman and then mayor of Frisco, which is part of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. After 13 years of civil service, Warren began a writing career and spends his spare time engaging with the local veteran community, his family and the nature surrounding him, which he loves to appreciate.

On being asked what advice he had for current active duty members, Warren said, "Be careful and do your best."



CARLOS VEGA

Robert M. "Bob" Warren (right), a World War II veteran, talks with Col. Steven Strain (left), 502nd Installation Support Group commander, during Warren's 101st birthday celebration.

MUSEUM

From page 13

recognition playing cards from years ago in which players would have to be able to take a silhouette of an aircraft and identify it as friend or foe. A frame that contains several of the aircraft recognition playing cards is displayed on a wall by the arcade boxes.

The gallery on Women in the Air Force is dedicated to the women who served in the Air Force from 1947-76, when they were known as WAFs. The exhibit tells their stories and includes photos and uniform displays.

The exhibit on the combat cameramen includes cameras and equipment lent by the USAF Combat Camera Association. Both the WAF and combat cameramen exhibits are still projects in progress, as video displays of interviews of women who served in the Air Force will be added later this year and interpretive signage for the combat cameramen exhibit should be added in the spring.

Manchester said Eagle Scouts from a local Boy Scouts of America troop helped to build the arcades for the

"Friend or Foe" game and pedestals for the cameras for the combat cameramen display.

At the Security Forces Exhibits Annex museum, a video about how Security Forces members train and work with military working dogs has been installed at the Military Working Dog exhibit. An exhibit dedicated to women in the Security Forces, which focuses on their contributions to Security Forces, is planned to be added to the Security Forces Exhibits Annex in the coming year.

Manchester said through its exhibits and displays, the purpose of both the Airman Heritage and Security Forces Exhibits Annex museums is to recognize the contributions of both Airmen past and present.

"Since 1947, Lackland has been the gateway to the Air Force," said Manchester, referring to JBSA-Lackland's origins as the home of Air Force basic training. "Our story is important and we want to tie that rich history of those who came through before us through the gateway of the Air Force to those who are coming through now."



BRIAN BOISVERT

A mannequin of a trainee at the Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills Training, or BEAST, exhibit at the Airman Heritage Museum at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Deployed 433rd AW first sergeant mentors NCOs at Al Dhafra Air Base

By Master Sgt. Dan Heaton

380TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Approximately 40 master and technical sergeants from across the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, completed a 3-day training seminar providing an overview of the duties and responsibilities of an Air Force first sergeant. The training concluded Feb. 4, 2022.

The training was provided by the 10 Airmen who are currently serving as first sergeants across the wing.

Master Sgt. Esteban Mejia, an Air Force Reservist from the 433rd Airlift Wing at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland was one of those who deployed to Al Dhafra as the first sergeant of the 380th Expeditionary Communications Squadron.

The course provided training and insights on the relationships between first sergeants and commanders, the first sergeants' role in maintaining good order and discipline and a number of the administrative tasks assigned to first sergeants.

During the course, the students received information from the wing commander and command chief and a number of specialized agencies across the wing including chaplains, judge



STAFF SGT. NICHOLAS ROSS

Instructors and students gather after a training symposium for potential future Air Force first sergeants conducted over three days at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates Feb. 4.

advocates, equal opportunity, sexual assault prevention and response and others.

Approximately 2,000 Airmen are assigned to Al Dhafra Air Base. The students in the class also included several noncommissioned officers from Army units also assigned to the base.

While a number of the students who took the informal training stated a desire to serve as a first sergeant in the future, others hoped to be able to provide back-up to their first sergeant — a

position informally known as the “under shirt” as Air Force first sergeants are typically referred to as the “First Shirt.” Others in the class stated that they attended strictly seeking to become better supervisors and Air Force leaders.

“The first sergeant is an important part of the leadership triad in any Air Force unit,” said Master Sgt. Esteban Mejia, an Air Force Reservist from the 433rd Airlift Wing in Texas who deployed to Al Dhafra as the first sergeant of the 380th Expeditionary

Communications Squadron. “This class was meant to expose the students to some of the duties and hopefully many of them will take the next step and look into becoming a first sergeant in the future.”

To earn the diamond device that first sergeants wear in their chevrons requires completion of a formal Air Force school, Mejia said the symposium provides the students with the knowledge necessary to serve as an “under shirt.”

AETC Det. 62 begins researching eVTOL training requirements with arrival of simulator

By Dan Hawkins

AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Education and Training Command's Detachment 62 began research into training requirements for emerging electric vertical takeoff/landing, or eVTOL, aircraft with the arrival of a Joby eVTOL aircraft simulator at Joint Base San Antonio-Kelly Field Feb. 4. A second delivery was scheduled for the week of Feb. 7-11.

“Electric aviation will soon revolutionize and democratize air travel,” said Col. Don “Stryker” Haley, Detachment 62 commander. “This simulator will allow us to prepare the eVTOL industry and the

Air Force to train future operators.”

As the Air Force investigates eVTOL use cases, the limiting factor facing many potential users is how to train enough pilots to meet the future demand. Reducing the training burden is key to meeting this demand, Haley said.

Det. 62's role in the Agility Prime program is to establish core competencies and develop a curriculum for multi-capable Airmen, or MCA, operators of advanced air mobility (AAM) vehicles, thereby driving operator certification standards. Det. 62 will also train the initial Air Force cadre of operators.

The Air Force, under the AFWERX Agility Prime program,

has funded AETC to conduct research measuring how quickly pilots learn simplified controls used by leading manufacturers in the eVTOL arena. By using eVTOL simulators to train experienced and new pilots to take off, fly and land an eVTOL, the service will learn more about prospective training times and learning approaches applied to eVTOL competencies, Haley said.

The arrival of the simulator follows up on Det. 62's participation in the first government remotely piloted flight of a Heaviside eVTOL aircraft in December 2021. Along with industry partner Kitty Hawk and AFWERX's Agility Prime test team, the Det. 62 team worked to

draft an initial syllabus for pilot testing and training. They also observed, gathered data, reviewed training processes, and conducted detailed debriefs along the way.

Agility Prime is a collaborative initiative led by the Air Force Research Lab to create revolutionary military acquisition and airpower concepts by accelerating the growth of the commercial transformative vertical flight market. The Air Force intends to energize the commercial market using unique Department of Defense resources and leverage the market for military advantage.

Editors Note: Master Sgt. Tim Nissen assisted with this story.

RANDOLPH

560TH FLYING TRAINING SQUADRON HOSTS YOUTUBE CONTENT CREATOR, PODCAST HOST

The 560th Flying Training Squadron welcomed YouTube content creator and podcast host, Maj. Justin “Hasard” Lee, as they filmed T-38 Pilot Training 2.5 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Feb. 9. Lee and his team filmed T-38 takeoff and landings, conducted instructor pilot interviews and flew a simulated mission with the immersive training devices. The 560th Flying Training Squadron is part of the 12th Flying Training Wing at JBSA-Randolph and qualifies fighter and bomber pilots as instructor pilots in the T-38C Talon. The squadron executes eight syllabi to train Air Force instructor pilots, Air Force and U.S. Navy test pilot school candidates, allied nation fighter and instructor pilots, and Air Force pilots identified for transition to fighter aircraft. The squadron currently flies a total of 8,800 hours annually in a fleet of nearly 40 aircraft and produces about 130 graduates per year.



COURTESY PHOTO

Restoring mental health in the New Year

By Shannon Hall

AIR FORCE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM

When the New Year comes around, many people look at re-establishing positive aspects of their life. They declutter their homes, start a new workout routine, work on paying off debt or start a new hobby. Either way, the decisions they make are beneficial to restoring their mental health.

If there is a strong foundation of mental health, most stressors, changes and unexpected incidents are easier to accept and cope with. Tending to and restoring mental health doesn't mean there will never be setbacks, but it ensures that we are able to be successful in life, and have the ability to assist others when they are going through hard times.

“Mental health restoration is not only about getting better, but also having the

ability to achieve a full and satisfying life,” said Jennifer Houghton, Wellness Team program manager. “We must have strong mental health in order to give our best every day. How can we provide exceptional care to our Airmen, Guardians, families and friends if we are running on empty?”

Because people tend to get comfortable and complacent with their day-to-day living and schedules, it can sometimes be hard to tell when their mental health may be dwindling a bit. Getting agitated and frustrated sometimes, changes in sleep patterns and having no energy may seem normal but are all signs that someone's mental health is suffering.

“Feeling irritable and disconnected, isolating yourself and changes in weight or appetite are all signs of someone struggling with mental health,” Houghton said. “It is important to

recognize your mental health is declining when experiencing these symptoms and then seek help. Always remember, it's okay to not be okay.”

It can sometimes be hard to find time to concentrate on self-care and mental health, especially during the New Year, but there is always something that can be done in a limited time. Meditation is a great way to calm the mind, working out in any form, taking a break from social media, writing down thoughts and goals in a journal and even having scheduled alone time are all great ways to restore mental health daily.

The Air Force Wounded Warrior, or AFW2, Program offers many resources and tools to those struggling with their mental health. There is an Adaptive Sports program that can assist any warrior who wants to get involved with sports, a Recovering Airman Mentorship Program that connects warriors of the

same trauma, local area and more so that they are not going down their recovery road alone or blind-sided. The Wellness and Resiliency Program offers classes on journaling, origami, dancing, art of all forms and much more to help combat mental health struggles.

For warriors who are interested in getting involved with these programs, looking for additional resources or just wanting someone to talk to they can reach out to their Recovery Care Coordinators (RCC) or Non-Medical Case Managers (NMC) for more assistance and direction.

“It is possible to look back and see, that despite the halting progress and discouragements, everyone has come really far and it is up to the individual to keep going and not give up,” Houghton said. “Each time a milestone is reached, there is a recovered piece of life that strength is drawn from.”

First Step, First Flight, First Command: AETC officials unveil 2022 Air Force Fiesta medal

By Capt. Kenya Pettway and Miriam Thurber
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Air Education and Training Command officials unveiled the 2022 Air Force Fiesta medal that will be distributed during Fiesta events March 31-April 10, 2022.

This year's design is credited to Air Force Recruiting Service's Mike Carabajal, a San Antonio native.

"I was born and raised in San Antonio and have participated in Fiesta events all of my life," Carabajal said. "So when they asked if I wanted to design the medal, I jumped at the chance."

The theme inscribed in the medal, "First Step, First Flight, First Command," honors AETC's 80th anniversary of recruiting, training and educating exceptional Airmen.

"From our start as the Air Corps Flying Training Command on Jan. 23, 1942, through present day, Air Education and Training Command professionals have always laid the foundation of readiness for our Air Force and we couldn't do that without the support of San Antonio," said Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, AETC commander. "Through our enduring partnerships with Military City USA, we take America's sons and daughters — young men and women who have volunteered to serve their country in difficult times — and develop them into professional

Airmen and Guardians."

The medal features a bright palette with the Air Force's signature blue, and a lively yellow center signifying the festive nature of Fiesta.

It also includes a depiction of the San Antonio skyline with three aircraft that resemble the T-38 Talon, P-51 Mustang and F-35A Lightning II soaring into the horizon, a commemoration of the U.S. Air Force's rich history.

"Airmen and Guardians train, live and work in San Antonio as we serve our nation," said Chief Master Sgt. Erik C. Thompson, AETC command chief master sergeant. "The San Antonio community has always provided unwavering support to our Airmen, Guardians, and their families, and we are proud to call San Antonio home no matter how long we serve here. Fiesta is a time-honored tradition that makes our bonds even



COURTESY GRAPHIC

stronger in Military City USA."

More than 140,000 active duty military, government civilians, veterans and their families call San Antonio home. Fiesta celebrates date back to 1891 when horse-drawn carriages circled Alamo Plaza and participants pelted each other with blossoms. Today's Fiesta San Antonio has grown into an 11-day celebration of diverse heritage, cultures and traditions.

"If you close your eyes and think of San Antonio and Fiesta, I am confident you will think of the vibrant colors, smell the wonderful Mexican dishes being prepared and hear the mariachi bands playing," Carabajal said. "While a medal can't convey all of those things, I hope I was able to capture something that honors both our Air Force and Fiesta in San Antonio, as well as the strong partnership between the two."

myLearning debuts 'Big Blue Button' to expand course development options

By Dan Hawkins
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The "Big Blue Button," a new synchronous learning capability intended to increase course development and execution options, went live in the myLearning platform Jan. 26.

Air Education and Training Command officials announced the update here as part of the third phase of the myLearning platform rollout. The "Big Blue Button" provides a collaborative, virtual classroom for course instructors and students to be able to interact in a "live" learning environment.

"We are continuing to add the capability to myLearning as part of the service's focus on deliberate development of the Total Force," said Brig. Gen. Brenda Cartier, AETC

director of operations and communications. "The continual push to add functionality to the platform is another way AETC is advancing force development in line with Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown's Action Order-Airmen, delivering innovative learning capabilities that will help enable the identification of the right Airmen, for the right job, at the right time."

The addition of the Zoom and Microsoft Teams-like capability provides more agility in how the command develops Airmen throughout their career.

"With the addition of the Big Blue Button, instructors are provided modern capabilities to allow for real-time polling of students and adds ability to share screens and videos content," said Floyd McKinney, AETC Learning Services Operations division chief. "Instructors can send students to

breakout rooms for peer-to-peer collaboration and upload or download course documents to exchange information."

An additional benefit is the ability for instructors to record class presentations to allow students to either re-watch lessons or catch up on demand if they missed a class for an official reason, such as quarantine, sick call or other, McKinney said.

myLearning debuted as a modern and interactive solution in March and replaced training modules previously found on the Advanced Distributed Learning Service or ADLS. Since its launch, over 970,000 Airmen and Guardians have accessed the site and completed around three million courses.

Other myLearning efforts planned or in-work to be delivered in the first half of 2022 include the completion of standard reports to aid course owners

and unit training and deployment managers, as well as add the capability to provide course recurrence and bulk completion. Additionally, work continues to integrate multi-functional training and education applications, such as the Member Operations Training Analytics and Reports or MOTAR, program, and the Total Force Training Record 2.0, into the myLearning operational environment.

If you are experiencing technical difficulties with the site or have feedback for the development team, submit a ticket to the myLearning Service Desk by clicking the "NEED HELP?" button. Users are asked to exercise patience as the myLearning Help Desk is working trouble tickets as quickly as possible. Please do not submit another ticket for the same issue as that further delays the Service Desk's ability to respond quickly.